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Cuomo

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(54) **CARRIER AND METHOD**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 11/345,898, filed on Feb. 2, 2006, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/301,407, filed on Dec. 13, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,438,181, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/301,913, filed on Dec. 13, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,475,772, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/012,440, filed on Dec. 15, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,383,949, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/012,789, filed on Dec. 15, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,370,755, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 10/939,264, filed on Sep. 10, 2004, now Pat. No. 7,604,115, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 10/737,612, filed on Dec. 16, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,267,224, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 10/662,265, filed on Sep. 15, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,243,785, and a continuation-in-part of application No. 10/215,938, filed on Aug. 9, 2002, now Pat. No. 7,185,758.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
B65D 75/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **206/162**; 206/168; 206/175; 206/180

(58) **Field of Classification Search** 206/162, 206/168, 169, 170, 174, 175, 180, 183, 185, 206/186, 188; 229/117
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The carrier has a central vertical support panel structure with two foldable receptacles extending outwardly from the vertical support panel structure. The outside wall of each receptacle is extended upwardly and bent over to cover the receptacle, and the top portions of those walls are joined together to form a carrying handle structure, either with or without the upper portion of the vertical support panel structure. The potions of the outside walls forming the covers can have openings to receive the necks of bottles such as wine and beer bottles to give added lateral support for the bottles.

18 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

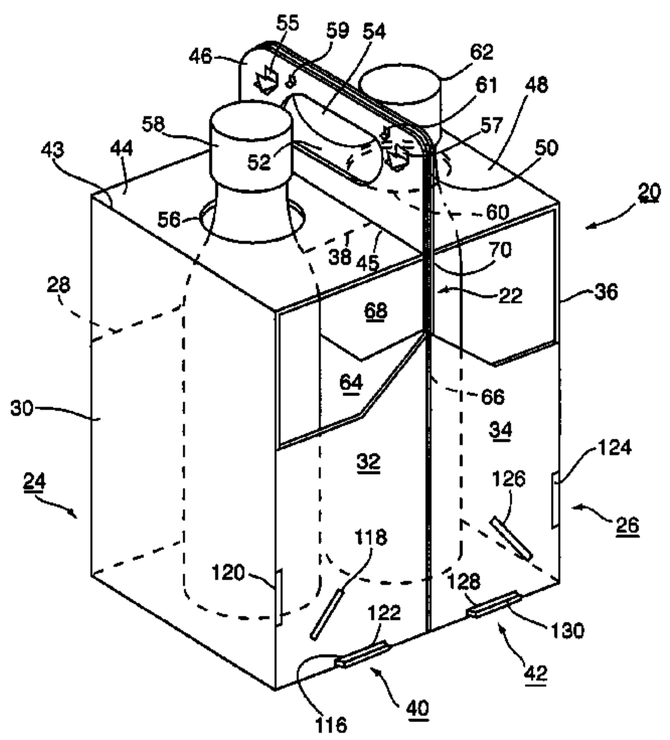

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Fig.1

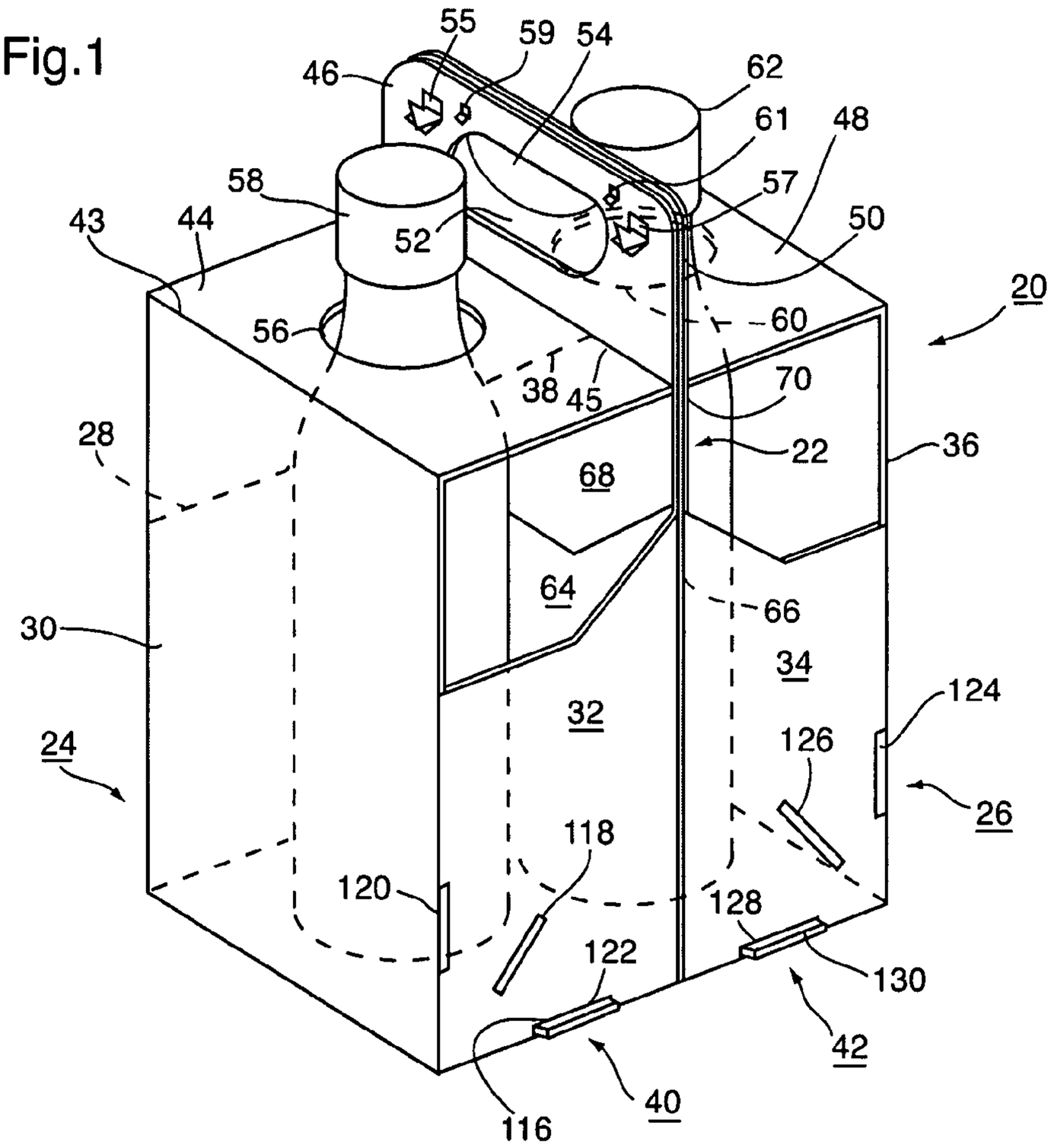


Fig.2

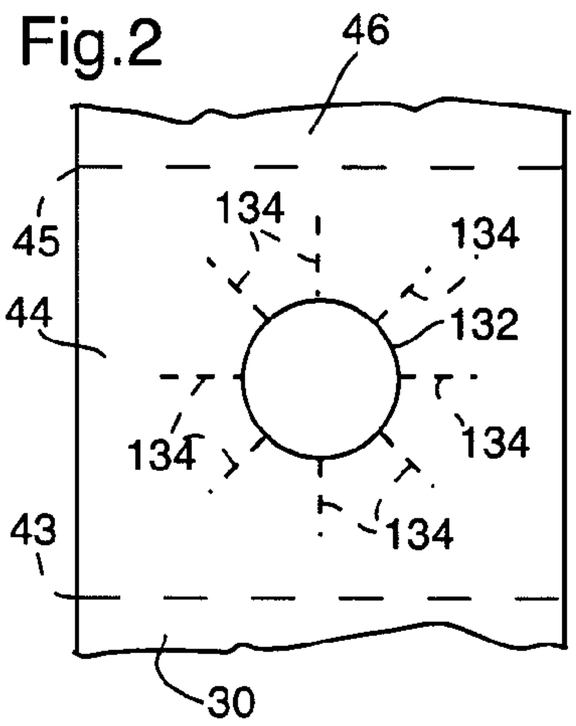


Fig.3

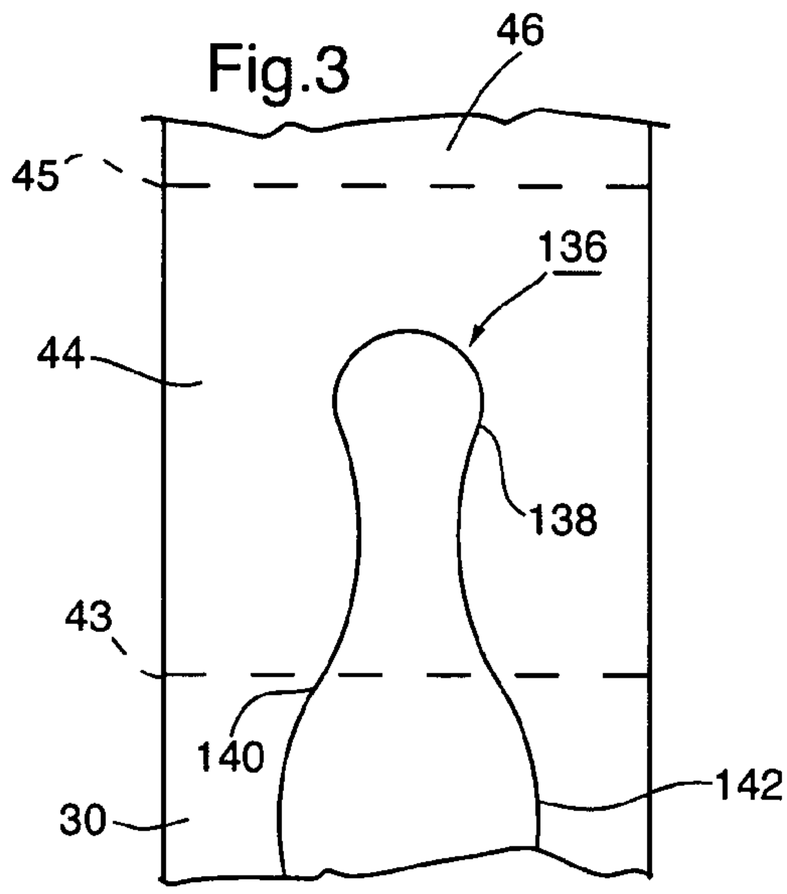
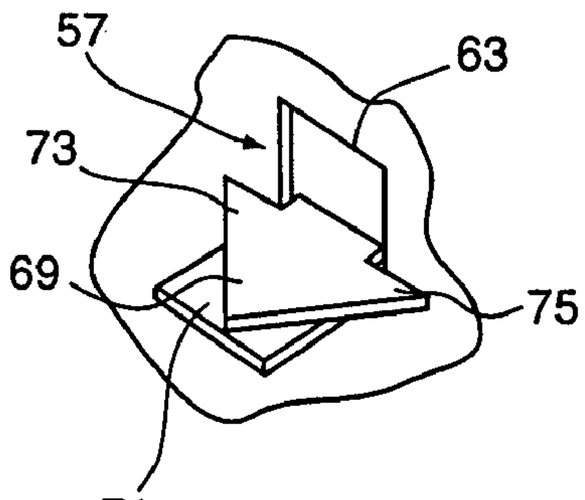


Fig.17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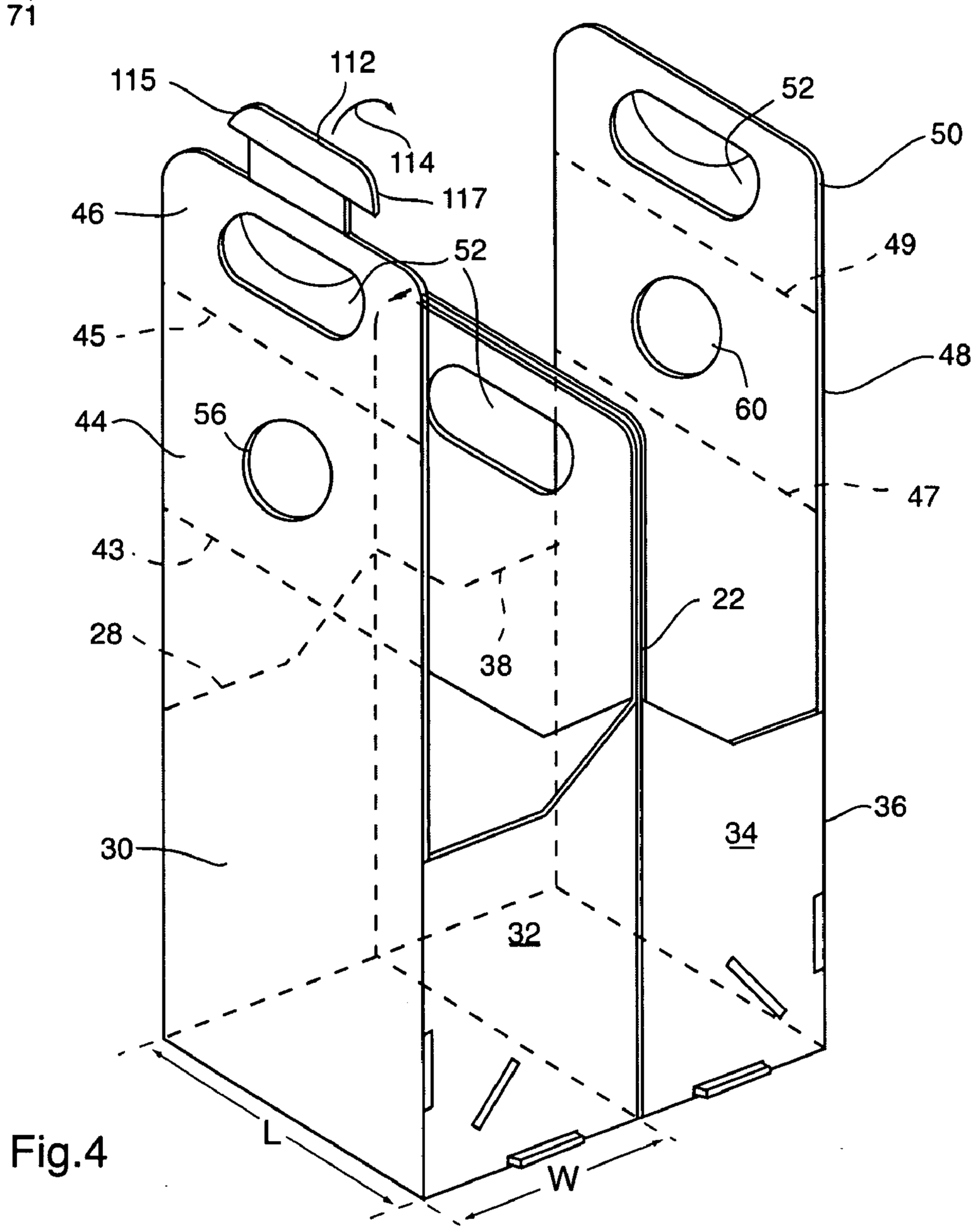
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Fig.4

Fig.5

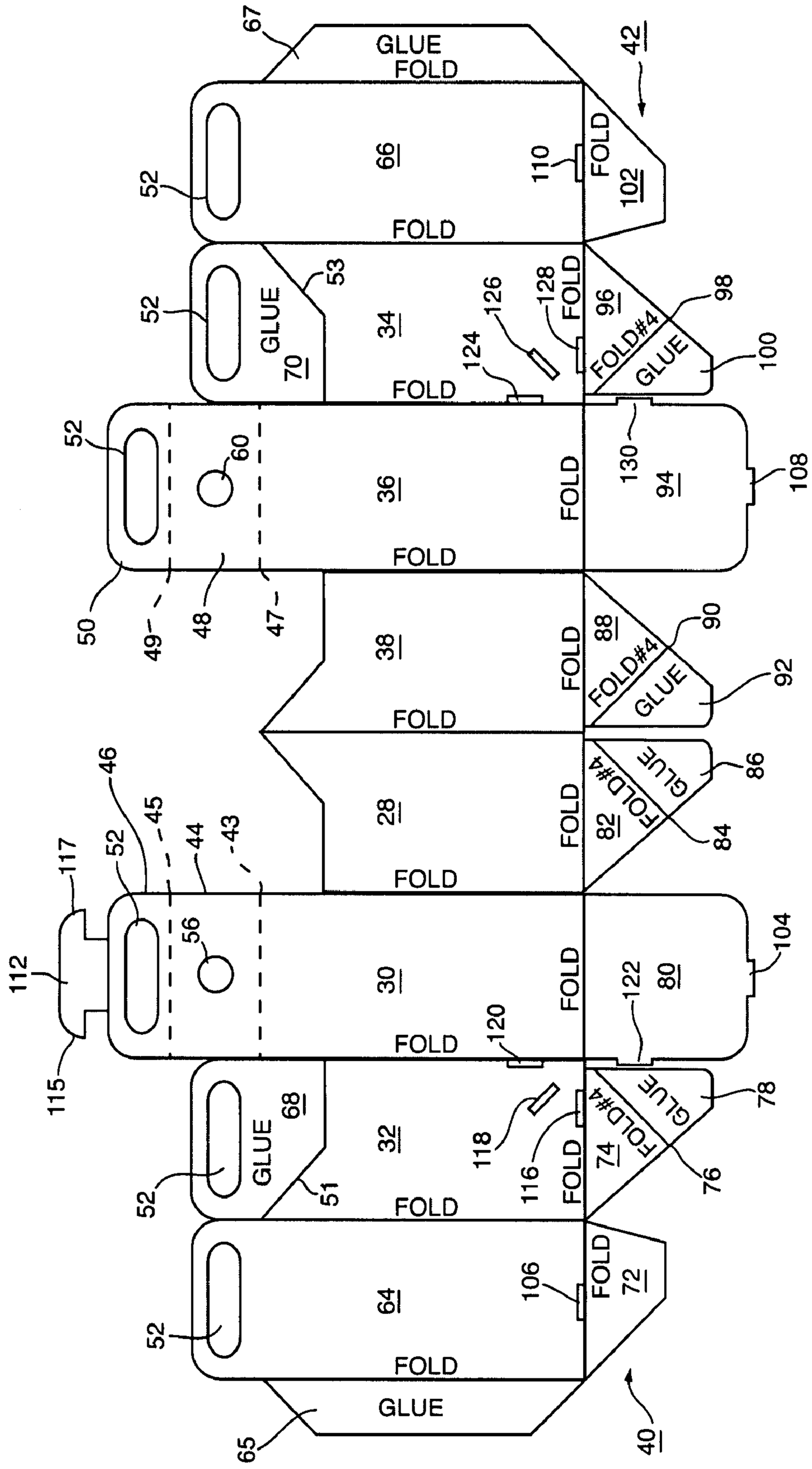
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Fig.6

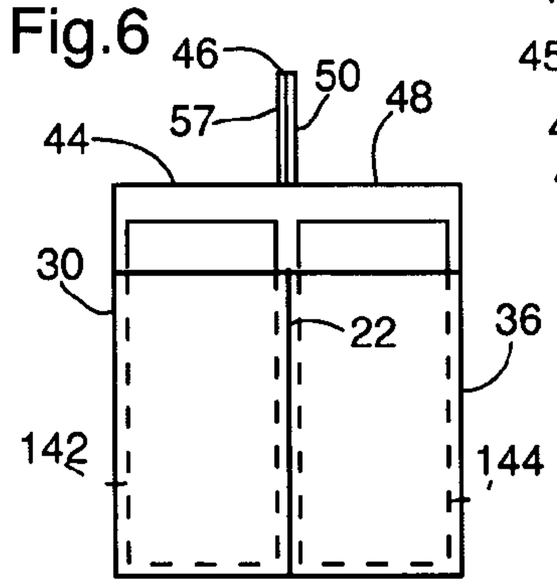


Fig.7

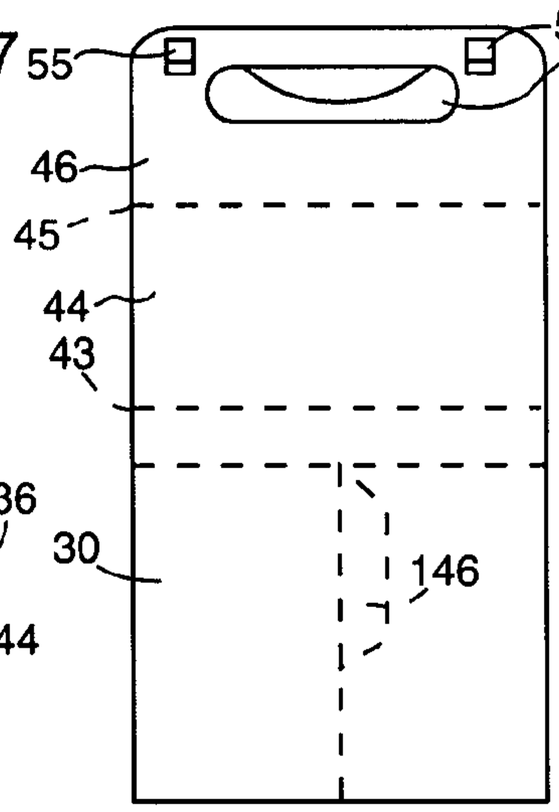


Fig.8

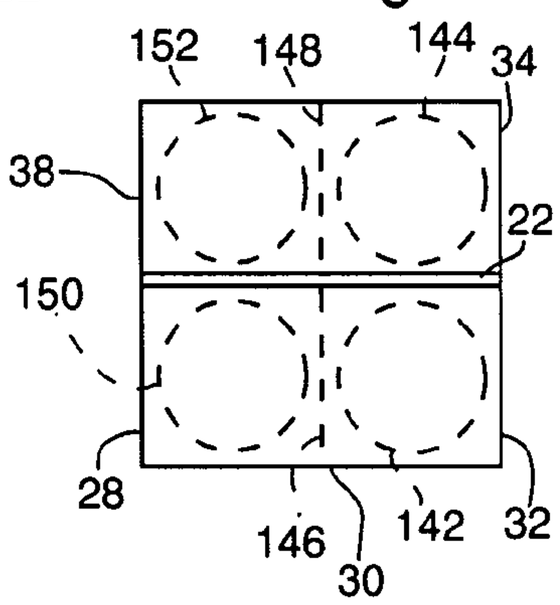


Fig.9

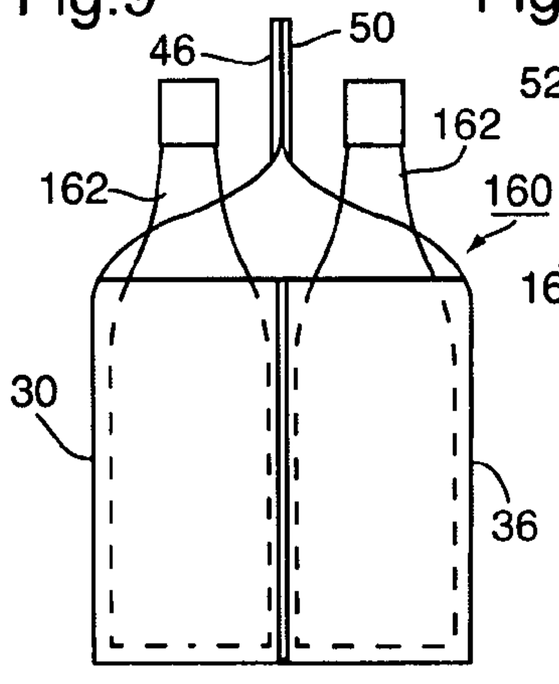


Fig.10

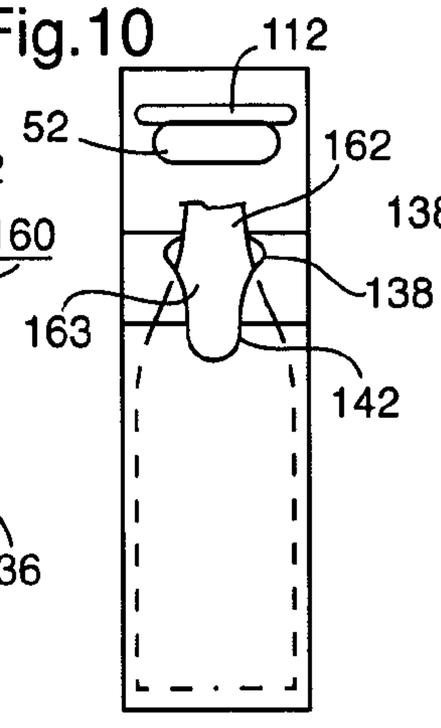


Fig.11

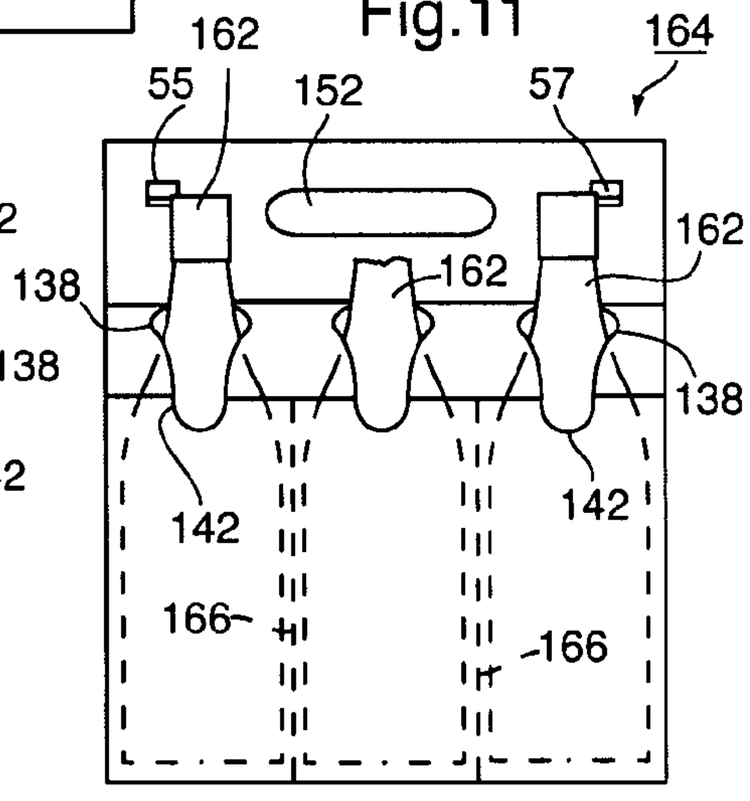


Fig.12

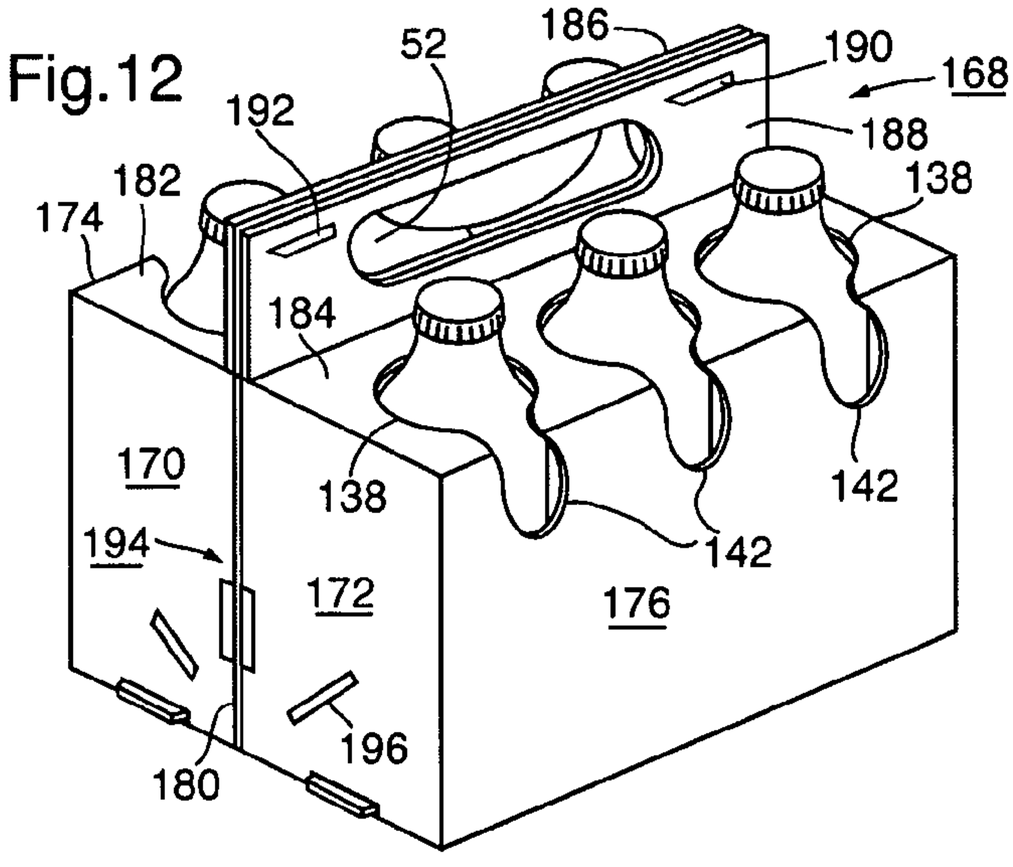
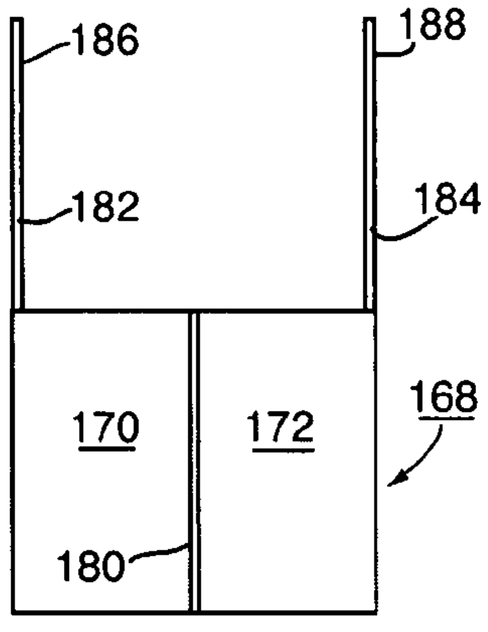


Fig.13



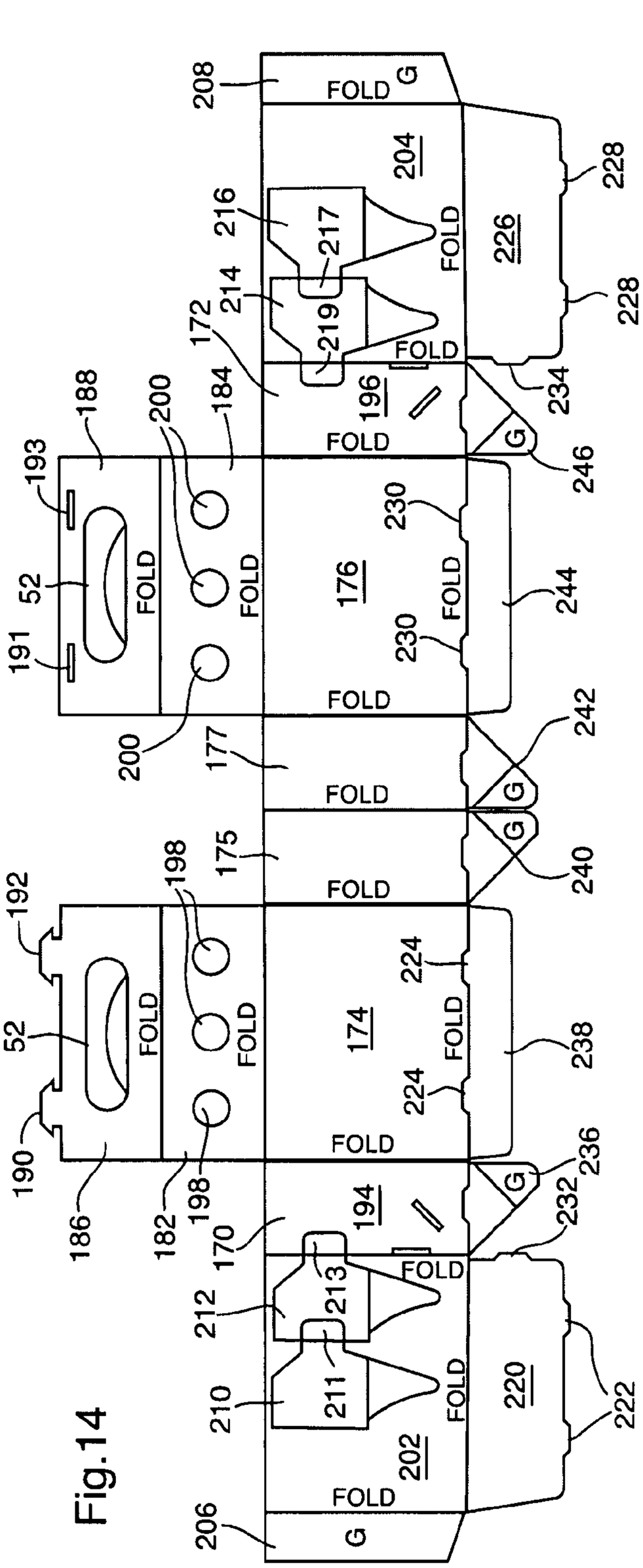


Fig.14

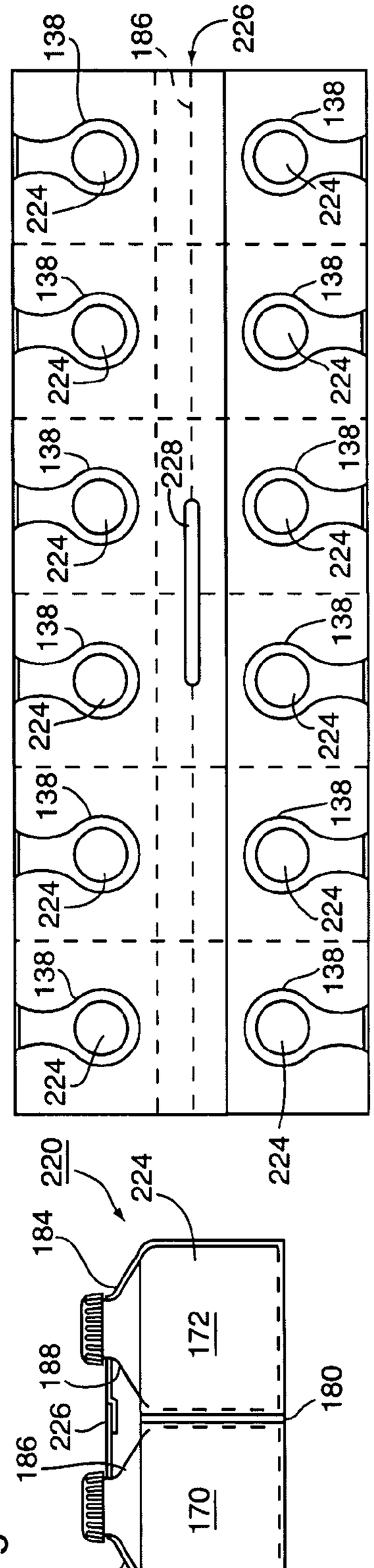


Fig.16

Fig.15

CARRIER AND METHOD

This patent application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent applications Ser. No. 10/215,938 filed Aug. 9, 2002, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,185,758; Ser. No. 10/662,265, filed Sep. 15, 2003, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,243,785; Ser. No. 10/737,612 filed on Dec. 16, 2003, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,267,224; Ser. No. 10/939,264 filed on Sep. 10, 2004 now U.S. Pat No. 7,604,115, Ser. No. 11/012,440 filed on Dec. 15, 2004 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,383,949, Ser. No. 11/012,789, filed Dec. 15, 2004, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,370,755; Ser. No. 11/301,913, filed Dec. 13, 2005 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,475,772, Ser. No. 11/301,407, filed Dec. 13, 2005 now U.S. Pat. No. 7,438,181, and Ser. No. 11/345,898, filed Feb. 2, 2006. The disclosure of those patents and patent applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

This invention relates to carriers for beverages, food, liquids in containers and other objects, and to methods of making and using such carriers.

Although the carriers of the foregoing patent applications are excellent for most purposes, it is desired to provide modified versions of those carriers which are able to carry and protect objects of diverse sizes and shapes and to form covers over the receptacles containing the objects to be carried.

In accordance with the invention, a carrier is provided in which outside walls are used to form handles and simultaneously cover all or a portion of the tops of the receptacles containing objects to be carried.

The covers can be provided with holes or slots through which the necks of bottles such as wine or beer bottles can protrude. This can provide valuable lateral support for tall objects to be carried, while partially covering upper surface portions of those objects.

Extra strength can be added to the handle structure by extending the central vertical panel structure upwardly and joining it with the extended outside walls to form a reinforced multi-ply handle structure.

Throughout its variations, the invention maintains the use of a pair of vertical support panels, a foldable receptacle extending outwardly from each panel, with the vertical support panels being secured together back-to-back, with each forming one side wall of one of the receptacles.

The preferred rectangular bottom structure for each receptacle is formed of four flanges, one extending downwardly from each of the four side walls of the receptacle. Each of two flanges is secured to an adjacent flange and the combination is folded diagonally at opposed corners of the rectangular structure. This bottom structure is strong and unfolds easily and automatically when the carrier is unfolded.

The bottom structure preferably has a wide flange and, optionally, a tab-and-slot detent structure to hold a partially-unfolded carrier open for filling.

As a result, carriers of the invention provide an economical covered or partially-covered carrier which is strong and relatively easy to fill, and is able to support beverage containers of a variety of sizes and shapes, especially tall necked containers.

The invention also provides an improved method for packaging items for carry-out from an alcoholic beverage store, grocery or convenience store, restaurant, sports arena concession stand, etc. Carriers of the invention of a single size, or of a small number of different sizes, can be used to better and more safely carry beverage containers of a wide variety of sizes and shapes. Thus, tall necked wine or beer bottles can be given good lateral support by the covers provided over the receptacles, with holes available to give lateral support for the necks of bottles to be carried.

Pre-packaged beverages in cans or bottles can be protected from dust and accidental spillage by means of the invention. The covers over the tops of the receptacles hold the beverage containers in the receptacles until the carrier cover is torn open. In the typical automatic carton filling equipment, the carrier is simply unfolded, filled with beverage containers, and the two outside walls are brought together and secured to one another. The carriers are selected so that the containers substantially fill the compartments in the carrier, and the outside walls are secured together so as to hold the containers together in a tight package.

The foregoing and other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from or set forth in the following description and drawings.

IN THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of one embodiment of the carrier of the invention;

FIGS. **2** and **3** are broken-away plan views of alternative embodiments of the carrier of the invention;

FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the carrier of FIG. **1** in an erected but unfilled state;

FIG. **5** is a top plan view of a blank used to make the carrier of FIG. **1**;

FIGS. **6**, **7** and **8** are, respectively, end elevation, side elevation and top plan views of another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. **9** and **10** are, respectively, end and side elevation views of another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **11** is a side elevation view of another embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. **12** and **13** are, respectively, perspective and end elevation views of another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **14** is a top plan view of a blank for another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **15** is an end elevation view of a further embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **16** is a top plan view of the carrier shown in FIG. **15**; and

FIG. **17** is an enlarged, broken-away view of a component of the carrier of FIG. **1**.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a carrier **20** constructed in accordance with the present invention. The carrier includes a vertical support panel structure **22** and, when unfolded, as shown in FIG. **1**, includes two receptacles **24** and **26** which extend outwardly from opposite sides of the vertical support panel structure **22**.

The first receptacle **24** includes a rear end wall **28**, an outside wall **30**, and a front end wall **32**. One panel **64** forming the central vertical support panel structure **22** forms the fourth side wall of the receptacle **24**.

Similarly, receptacle **26** includes a rear end wall **38**, an outside wall **36**, and a front end wall **34**, as well as another panel **66** of the vertical support structure **22** (also see FIG. **5**).

Each of the receptacles has a bottom structure **40** or **42** which is shown in greater detail in FIG. **5** and will be described below, and which has been described in some or all of the above-identified pending patent applications.

Each of the outside walls **30** and **36** is elongated so as to extend well above the upper edge of the two end walls **28** and **32** or **38** and **34**.

The outside wall **30** has a section **44** foldable over along a fold line **43**, and an upper edge section **46** formed by folding along another fold line **45**.

Similarly, as shown in FIG. **5**, the outside wall **36** has a section **48** defined by fold lines **47** and **49**, and an upper edge section **50**.

Each of the upper edge sections **46** and **50**, as well as the upper edge sections of the panels making up the vertical panel structure **22** has a hand hole **52** with a hand guard **54**. The hand holes **52** are aligned with one another and the upper edge sections are secured together so as to form a combined handle structure by means of which the carrier can be lifted and carried.

In accordance with one of the optional features of the invention, each of the panels **44** and **48** has a hole **56** or **60** positioned to receive the neck of a bottle **58** or **62** therethrough. This provides lateral support for the bottles near their upper ends so as to stabilize them and prevent them from falling from the receptacles in which they are carried.

As shown in FIG. **1**, each of the bottles **58** or **62** has a diameter substantially smaller than the inside dimensions of the receptacle **24** or **26** in which it is located. This can come about when a carrier **20** of a standard size is used to package products which vary widely in size, as might be done in a carry-out retail store. By restraining the necks of the bottles by means of the panels **44** and **46** and the holes **56** and **60**, etc., the carrier **20** can be used to carry a wide variety of bottles which might be too small to fit snugly in the carrier, or are tall with a tendency to tip, etc.

The carrier **20** has four locking structures **55**, **57**, **59**, and **61** which are used to lock all of the parts of the handle structure together after the items to be carried have been loaded into the carrier.

FIG. **17** shows one of the four locking structures **57** in detail.

A rectangular hole **63** is die cut in all layers of the handle structure except one, in which an arrow-head shaped tab **69** is die-cut. The tab has two barbs **73** and **75** which project from the sides to a width somewhat wider than the width of the hole **63**. The other three lock structures **55**, **59**, and **61** are of similar construction, except that the lock structures **59** and **61** are smaller than the structures **55** and **57**. Material **71** only partially die cut is pushed outwardly when the tab **69** is pushed through the holes **63**.

In locking the handle layers together, the layers are brought together with the holes **63**, etc., aligned with one another and the tabs **69**, etc., aligned with the holes, and the tabs are pushed through the holes until the barbs **73**, **75**, etc., catch on the side edges of the holes to lock the panels together. The tabs can be pushed through the holes by hand, or by the movement of rods, if the carriers are filled by automatic bottling equipment.

The handle layers can be pulled apart by hand fairly easily, when the customer wishes to open the carrier to remove a beverage container.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

FIG. **5** is a plan view of the blank used to make the carrier **20**, except that an alternative handle lock structure is used. Although a variety of different blanks can be used, the one shown in FIG. **5** is particularly well designed for fabrication using an automatic in-line gluing machine.

The blank includes a pair of panels **68** and **70** which are secured to the side walls **32** and **34**, respectively, along weak perforated lines **51** and **53**. During the gluing and folding process using automated equipment, the panels **68** and **70** are

broken loose from the panels **32** and **34** and are folded over on the panels **64** and **66**, respectively, and glued thereto in order to form a multi-ply handle structure.

Tabs **65** and **67** extend from the left and right edges of the blank and are glued and, when the panels are folded over, are attached, respectively, to the panels **38** and **28** to form the side walls of the receptacles **24** and **26**.

The bottom structure **40** includes a first flange **72** which extends downwardly from panel **64**, and a triangular flange **74**, with a tab **78** and a diagonal fold line **76**, extends downwardly from the panel **32**. A broad panel **80** extends downwardly from the panel **30**, and another triangular flange **82** with a tab **86** and diagonal fold line **84** extends downwardly from the panel **28**.

Similarly, the bottom structure **42** for the receptacle **26** includes flanges **94** and **102**, and triangular flanges **88**, **96** with tabs **92**, **100** and fold lines **90**, **98** which are the mirror images of the corresponding flanges of the bottom structure **40**.

Each of the broad flanges **80** and **94** has a tab **122** or **130** extending from one side and an end tab **104** or **108**. The tab **122** or **130** cooperates with each of three slots **120**, **118** and **116**, or **124**, **126**, and **128**, (also see FIG. **1**) as the carrier is being unfolded to hold the receptacles open until objects have been placed in them. The placement of the objects in the receptacles presses the panels **80** and **94** downwardly until the tab **122** extends through the slot **116** and the tab **130** extends through the slot **128** to help hold the panel in a downward position. This feature of the invention is described in greater detail in some of the foregoing patent applications.

Glue is applied to the tabs **78**, **86**, **92**, **100**, **67**, and **65**, as well as to the surfaces of panels **68** and **70**, and the panels are folded over upon one another to form the carrier structure which is folded and ready for shipment to a retail store, bottling facility or other place where it is loaded with items to be carried.

Still referring to FIG. **5**, as well as FIG. **4**, the locking structure includes a wide barbed male locking member or tab **112** extending from the upper edge of the panel **30**. The tab **112** has two barbs **115**, **117** extending to a width greater than that of the handle hole **52**.

To lock the layers of the handle together, the panels are brought together with the holes **52** in alignment, and the tab **112** is folded over the upper edges of the panels, in the direction indicated by the arrow **114** in FIG. **4**, and pushed through the holes **52** until the barbs **115**, **117** are caught on the edges of the panel **46** to lock the panels together. This locking is easy to perform by hand, without any tools.

Other known locking structures can be used instead of those shown in FIGS. **1**, **4**, **5** and **17**, if desired.

Alternative Bottle Neck Hole Shapes

FIGS. **2** and **3** are broken away views of the panels **43** and **46** with alternative hole shapes which can be used to accommodate the necks of bottles of varying sizes.

The embodiment shown in FIG. **2** provides a circular hole **132** with radial perforations **134** extending outwardly from the edges of the hole. When a bottle neck of a diameter larger than the diameter of the hole **132** is thrust through the hole **132**, the perforations **134** break and enlarge the hole to accommodate the larger bottle neck.

FIG. **3** is an elongated opening **136** with a generally wasp-like shape. It has an enlarged upper portion **138**, a neck portion **140** and an enlarged lower portion **142**. The elongated hole extends past the fold line **43** and downwardly into the panel **30**. It is provided so that the panels **30** and **44** will be

bendable to fit the contours of a larger bottle and give it added support. Openings of the shape shown in FIG. **3** are illustrated in some of the embodiments set forth hereinbelow.

FIG. **4** shows the unfolded carrier **20**, with the alternative handle lock, in the position which the carrier takes prior to being loaded with objects to be carried. As it can be seen, the outside walls **30** and **36** with the extensions **44** and **46** and **48** and **50** make the panels extend well above the upper edge of the vertical support panel structure **22**.

It should be understood that the dimensions of the various panels **44**, **46** and **30** can be varied in order to accommodate different products to be carried. For example, the panels **44** and **48** are horizontal as shown in FIG. **1**, and yet they need not be. Instead, they can be positioned at an angle as desired and needed. Also, holes of other shapes can be used to accommodate the bottle necks. The holes can be oval, rectilinear, or of any shape desired and suited to the purpose.

Further Alternative Embodiments

FIGS. **6**, **7** and **8** show the carrier of FIG. **1** in use as a six-pack carrier for beverage cans **142** and **144**. The panels **44** and **48**, in this case, have no holes in them so that they completely cover the tops of the cans in the carrier.

As it is shown in FIGS. **7** and **8**, dividers **146** and **148** are provided to divide the carrier into different compartments in which the cans are located. In the embodiment shown in FIGS. **6-8**, there are four such compartments and a beverage can is located in each, as it is shown in FIG. **8**, in which cans **150** and **152** are shown in addition to the cans **142** and **144**. Of course, the carrier can be made to carry **6**, **12** or other numbers of cans, as needed.

The carrier **160** shown in FIGS. **9** and **10** is especially desirable for packaging tall bottles such as wine bottles with long necks.

As it is shown in FIG. **10**, the opening accommodating each of the bottle necks is of the type shown in FIG. **3** with an enlarged upper portion **138** and a lower portion **142**. This is beneficial in gripping the bottle better and, also, in showing at least a portion of a label **163** of the bottle.

The carrier **164** shown in FIG. **11** is essentially the same as the carrier **160** shown in FIGS. **9** and **10**, except that it is adapted to hold six tall wine bottles instead of only two.

Two dividers **166** are provided in each of the receptacles to provide six compartments, one for each of the wine bottles **162**.

FIGS. **12** and **13** show another carrier **168** made in accordance with the invention. The carrier **168** is used to hold six small, short bottles of beer, sometimes called "nips". The carrier includes outside walls **174** and **176**, end walls **170** and **172**, horizontal cover portions **184** and **182**, and vertical handle portions **186** and **188**. Rear end walls are not visible in FIG. **12**.

The vertical panels forming the two receptacles of the carrier are joined together as indicated at **180**.

Locking structures **190** and **192** are provided in order to lock the various portions of the handle structure together after the bottles have been placed in the carrier.

As with the embodiments shown in FIGS. **9-11**, the elongated hole structures shown in FIG. **3** are used. This allows the panels **182** and **184** to be drawn tightly towards the center of the structure so that the edges of the carrier tend to be rounded and the bottles are held tightly.

If desired, the panels **186** and **188** can be glued together during the packaging process rather than using the tabs **190** and **192**.

Slot groups **194** and **196** are provided to aid in holding the receptacles open until loaded with bottles during the bottling procedure, as described above with respect to FIGS. **1** and **4**.

FIG. **13** is an end view showing the carrier **168** as it looks immediately prior to loading the bottles into the receptacles.

All of the embodiments in FIGS. **6** through **13** have in common the feature that the vertical panel structure **22** or **180**, etc., does not extend upwardly to be joined with the upper portions of the outside panels **30**, **36**, **174** and **176** to form a compound handle. This is because those carriers are designed to hold bottles or cans which are to be primarily prepackaged and delivered as six-packs, two-packs, four-packs, twelve-packs, etc., to grocery stores, alcoholic beverage stores, convenience stores, etc., for retail sale.

The compartments for the beverage containers are dimensioned so as to be only slightly larger than the containers they receive, so that the package can be made as tight as possible and so as to minimize the usage of materials. Moreover, the tight structure allows the further minimization of materials by shortening the central vertical panel structure and using only the upper extensions of the outside walls as handles.

It should be understood, of course, that the vertical central panel structure can be extended upwardly to join with the upper portions of the outside wall panels to give added strength, where needed.

FIG. **14** is a blank used to make a carrier which is almost the same as the carrier **168** shown in FIG. **12** except that it has six circular holes **198**, **200** instead of the elongated holes shown in the FIG. **12** structure.

As with the FIG. **5** blank, the blank shown in FIG. **14** is designed for use with an in-line gluer.

The wall panels **170**, **172**, **174** and **176** are shown, as well as rear end panels **175** and **177** which are not visible in FIG. **12**.

Vertical support panels **202** and **204** are shown, with flanges **206** and **208** extending from the left and right edges of the blank, as shown.

Four dividers **210**, **212**, **214** and **216** are shown. Each has a tab **211**, **213**, **217** or **219**, respectively, which is glued to the opposing outside wall **174** or **176** in order to form the dividers, as described in greater detail in several of the above-identified patent applications.

Wide flanges **220** and **226** extend, respectively, from the lower edges of panels **202** and **204**. Each wide flange has two tabs **222** or **228** which mate with slots **224** or **230** when the carrier is unfolded, so as to hold the flanges in place.

Side tabs **232** and **234** extend from the flanges **220** and **226**. These cooperate with the locking slots **194**, **196** to hold the receptacles open while they are being loaded with products. Narrower flanges **238** and **244** extend downwardly from the panels **174** and **176**. Triangular panels of the type described above and shown in FIG. **5** are provided at **236**, **240**, **242** and **246**. They function the same as those shown in the FIG. **5** structure to form automatically unfolding bottom structures when the carrier is unfolded.

The locking tabs **190** and **192** shown in FIG. **12** are shown in greater detail in FIG. **14**. Each is a projection with two barbs extending outwardly at the sides. Each tab **190**, **192** extends from the end of the panel **186**.

Slots **191** and **193** are provided in the upper edge of the panel **188** in a position to receive the tabs **190**, **192**. When the panels **186** and **188** are brought together in order to fasten them to one another, tabs **190** and **192** are bent over and they are inserted through the slots **191** and **193** until he barbs catch. Thus, the tabs **190** operate to secure the two panels **186** and **188** together. Lock structures like the structures **55**, **57** in FIG. **1** can be used instead, if desired.

FIGS. **15** and **16** show a further embodiment of the invention in which the carrier **220** has a flat top and a central slot **228** (FIG. **16**) in the flat top to be used as a handle instead of an upstanding handle such as in the embodiments shown in the previous figures of the drawings. Again, stubby bottles of beer **224** are shown packaged in the carrier **220**. The portions **182**, **186**, **184** and **188** are folded over to embrace the bottle tops, as in the FIGS. **12** and **13** embodiment, but, the upper portions **186** and **188** are not bent upwardly. Instead, they are overlapped and glued together along a seam **226** (see FIG. **16**). This seam is formed after the bottles **224** have been loaded into the carrier. The panels **186** and **188** are pulled tightly towards one another and overlapped and glued together.

As it is shown in FIG. **16**, the structure is used to form a twelve-pack. It also can be used to make a six-pack or a twenty-four-pack carrier, as needed and desired.

It should be understood that, in the blanks shown in FIGS. **5** and **14**, areas to be glued are marked "GLUE" or "G", and fold lines are marked "FOLD".

The above description of the invention is intended to be illustrative and not limiting. Various changes or modifications in the embodiments described may occur to those skilled in the art. These can be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A foldable carrier comprising

(a) a pair of receptacles, each having four vertical side walls joined together along vertical fold lines to form a foldable enclosure, each of said side walls having lower edges,

(b) each of said receptacles having its own foldable bottom structure, comprising four flanges, each secured to the lower edge of one of said four side walls along a fold line and being secured together so as to unfold to automatically form a multi-ply bottom structure when said side walls are unfolded,

(c) said receptacles being secured together by an inner one of said side walls of one of said receptacles being secured to a corresponding inner one of said side walls of the other of said receptacles,

(d) each of said receptacles having an outside one of said side walls opposite said inner side wall of said receptacle,

(e) said outside wall having a height substantially greater than that of the side walls secured to it,

(f) each of said outside walls being folded over towards said inner side wall in order to cover at least one of said receptacles when said carrier is unfolded, and having an upper edge with a handle structure near said upper edge,

(g) said outside walls being secured together adjacent said upper edges.

2. A carrier as in claim **1** in which said inner side wall of each of said receptacles has a height substantially greater than that of the side walls attached to it and extends to adjacent said upper edges of said outside walls and is secured to said outside walls adjacent said upper edges.

3. A carrier as in claim **2** in which each of said inner side walls has a handle structure near its upper edge, each of said handle structures having a handle hole, said handle holes in said outside and inner side walls being aligned with one another to form a single handle structure.

4. A carrier as in claim **1** in which each of said outside walls has at least one opening for receiving the neck of a necked container therethrough when the container is positioned in the receptacle of which said outside wall is a part.

5. A carrier as in claim **4** in which each of said receptacles has at least one divider extending between said outside wall and said inner side wall, and each of said outside walls has a plurality of container neckreceiving holes.

6. A carrier as in claim **1** including a securing structure selected from the group consisting of (a) a set of mechanical locking elements; (b) said upper edges being overlapped and glued together to form a flat top with a handle slot, and (c) said upper edges being glued tougher to form a vertical handle structure.

7. A carrier as in claim **1** in which adjacent ones of said flanges at opposite corners of said bottom structure are secured together and foldable diagonally.

8. A carrier as in claim **4** in which said opening has a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, an opening with radial slits around the edge, an elongated slot, and an elongated hourglass shaped slot.

9. A carrier as in claim **1** including a fastening structure adjacent said upper edges of said outside walls comprising a lock tab projection on one of said outside walls, and a mating receptacle for said lock tab on the other of said outside walls.

10. A foldable carrier comprising

(a) a pair of receptacles, each having four vertical side walls joined together along vertical fold lines to form a foldable enclosure,

(b) each of said receptacles having its own foldable bottom structure, said bottom structure in each of said receptacles comprising a separate flange depending from the lower edge of each of said four side walls of said receptacle, said flanges being secured together so as to automatically unfold and form a bottom structure when said four side walls are unfolded,

(c) said receptacles being secured together by an inner one of said side walls of one of said receptacles being secured to a corresponding inner one of said side walls of the other of said receptacles

(d) each of said receptacles having an outside one of said side walls opposite said inner side wall of said receptacle,

(e) said outside wall having a height substantially greater than that of the side walls secured to it,

(f) each of said outside walls being folded over towards said inner side wall in order to cover at least one of said receptacles when said carrier is unfolded, and having an upper edge, each of said outside walls having a plurality of holes each of which is positioned to fit over the neck of a necked container in the receptacle below it,

(g) said upper edges being overlapped and fastened together to form a flat top, said top having a handle slot in it.

11. A carrier as in claim **10** in which each receptacle has at least one divider with two ends, said divider being secured at one end to said outside wall of said receptacle and at its other end to said inner wall of said receptacle, thereby forming at least two compartments in said receptacle for holding a necked container therein with its neck extending through one of said holes.

12. A carrier as in claim **11** which each of said dividers is folded flat when said carrier is folded flat, but automatically moves into position to serve as a divider when said receptacle is unfolded.

13. A carrier as in claim **10** in which each of said receptacles is dimensioned to receive a specific size of necked container snugly.

14. A carrier as in claim **10** in which each of said holes is elongated in a direction perpendicular to said outside and inner side walls.

15. A carrier as in claim 10 in which said outside walls are pulled tightly against the shoulders of beverage containers in said receptacle.

16. A foldable carrier comprising

(a) A pair of receptacles, each having four vertical side walls joined together along vertical fold lines to form a foldable enclosure,

(b) Each of said receptacles having its own foldable bottom structure, said bottom structure in each of said receptacles comprising a separate flange depending from the lower edge of each of said four side walls of said receptacle, said flanges being secured together so as to automatically unfold and form a bottom structure when said four side walls are unfolded,

(c) Said receptacles being secured together by an inner one of said side walls of one of said receptacles being secured to a corresponding inner one of said side walls of the other of said receptacles

(d) Each of said receptacles having an outside one of said side walls opposite said inner side wall of said receptacle, (e) Said outside wall having a height substantially greater than that of the side walls secured to it,

(f) Each of said outside walls being folded over towards said inner side wall in order to cover at least one of said receptacles when said carrier is unfolded, and having an upper edge, each of said outside walls having a plurality of holes each of which is positioned to fit over the neck of a necked container in the receptacle below it,

(g) Said inner ones of said side walls having upper edges extending vertically to a height substantially greater than that of the ones of said side walls attached to said inner side walls, each having a handle structure adjacent said upper edge and aligned with the handle structure on the other of said inner ones of said side walls.

17. A carrier as in claim 16 in which each of said receptacles has at least one divider extending between said outside wall and said inner side wall.

18. A carrier as in claim 16 in which adjacent ones of said flanges at opposite corners of said bottom structure are secured together and foldable diagonally.

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